

# Highway Foreman Attacks Auto With Push Broom

# TWO INFANTS DIE IN HOME TRAGEDIES

## WEATHER

Despite the clouds and dew this morning, the weatherman came up with this: Possibly light showers tomorrow, clearing in late afternoon. Little change in temperature. Low yesterday was 42, high 60. Rainfall, .01 of an inch this morning, .24 of an inch over the week-end.

ESTABLISHED 1914

# TORRANCE HERALD

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

Published Monday and Thursday—Entered as second class matter Jan. 30, 1914, at postoffice, Torrance, California, under Act of March 3, 1879.

41st Year—No. 1

12

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 1955

PHONE FAIRfax 8-4000

12 PAGES

## SERVING:

Lomita - Harbor City  
Walteria - Hollywood Riviera  
Seaside - El Nido - North  
Torrance - Pacific Hills  
Keystone - Avalon Village

10¢ per copy

30¢ per month by Carrier

## Services Today for Victims

Graveside funeral services were conducted this morning for two tots who died in separate mishaps within two weeks of each other, last week.

Interred at Holy Cross cemetery were Patricia Ann Oberpriller, 16 months, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ruth Oberpriller of 17622 Kornblum Ave., and Frederick Burch, 3 1/2 months, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Burch of 5320 Palos Verdes Blvd.

The girl apparently choked on a baby aspirin tablet administered by her mother. Mrs. Oberpriller told officers Patricia was suffering from a severe cold and she had taken her daughter in her arms and given her the tiny pill.

The tablet lodged in the throat. A fire department rescue squad was unable to revive the baby. Police said Oberpriller attempted to breathe into the small girl's mouth to keep her breathing while firemen arrived.

Frederick Burch was found lying face down in his crib, by his mother, early Thursday morning. He apparently suffocated after death. County lifeguards worked with a resuscitator for an hour to no avail.

Surviving the girl are her parents, a sister, Dona, and brother, Frank. The Rev. P. McGuinness officiated.

Frederick Burch is survived by his parents, and two sisters, The Rev. Joseph Schneider officiated at burial.

## Odd Tip Tells Of Stick-Up

Two men, one armed with a automatic, made off with \$20 in bills and coins from a liquor store at 18225 Crenshaw Blvd. late Sunday night.

Police said they received a phone call stating: "Two men, one armed, 18th and Crenshaw," and sent two cars to investigate. They learned a robbery just had occurred.

Victim was Nute Baskovick of 3209 W. 190th St. He said the suspects put him in a back room while they rifled the register.

The suspects, both of Mexican descent, then left the scene in an auto.

## Walteria Civic Group

To Meet Tuesday Night

Reactivating former members and recruiting new members for the Walteria Civic Assn. will be the group's aim at a meeting at 8 p.m. Tuesday in the Walteria Recreation Center.

Permanent officers will be elected at the meeting. Clarence Hoyt, chairman, and other reports. He was treated at Park Emergency Hospital, Gardena.

## Reporter Promises to Withhold Story --- And Here's the Proof

It was a good one too. But then I got another phone call. This man said he wanted to give Jim a brand new bike, one he just bought.

Reporter: Yes, Mrs. Hiatt. That is the one we heard about. Really fine of him, wasn't it?  
Hiatt: Historic. It was wonderful. You know, he went into Torrance to that bicycle shop there and five points, and got it below cost. Oh, I wish he could have seen Jimmie when Jim first saw that beautiful new bike.

Reporter: I'm sure he knows how Jimmie felt, Mrs. Hiatt. You know we heard the entire story, but promised both the man and the bike shop that we wouldn't print a story about it. They wanted it that way. Some people don't think they need all kinds of publicity when they do fine things.

Asked Not to Tell  
Mrs. Hiatt: I know, Mr. Metzger, out here on Carson St. The man who paid for the bike, and (Continued on Page 9)

## Local Building Tops 1954 News

A colossal building boom highlighted by the issuing of permits for \$45,000,000 for new construction, opening of two major highways and expansion of two others, and work on many new schools in the Torrance area provided the top news-stories of the 1954 year, editors of The HERALD declared this morning.

Selected from the major news events of the past year, here are the ten top stories in the local area for 1954, according to the editors:

1. Building boom shatters all records.
2. Shake-up in city building department.
3. Local and national elections.
4. Development of the Torrance Municipal Airport provides the government's recapture clause pertaining to the property. Many firms, representing many large businesses have sought options on the ground fronting on Pacific Coast Hwy.
5. Mid-Air and highway plane crashes.
6. Mother and child die in crash.
7. El Camino goes to Junior Rose Bowl.
8. Spectacular fire levels Torrance plant.
9. Little Chuckie Smith loses battle to cancer.
10. Miss Torrance named Miss California in world-wide beauty pageant.

Torrance continually topped the list of most Southland communities in issuance of building permits for 1954, second only to Los Angeles County and City. Home tracts sprang up throughout the city, the largest being the Southwest Park development of Milton Kaufman, which still is expanding towards Sepulveda Blvd.

Industry grows And industry the financial backbone of any community, continued to swell the permit valuations within the city limits. Bethlehem Pacific Coast's new prefabrication plant, Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Co., Sheet Metal and Hi-Shear Tool at the airport, and two new postal substations were the highlights of industrial and commercial expansion.

Growth of the Torrance Unified School District continued at a heated pace, to keep up with the population growth. Work started on the North Torrance High School, on the Hillside, Crenshaw, Steele and Pacific elementary schools.

On the highways, Crenshaw Blvd. and 174th St. were pushed through as major arteries, with work still continuing on Crenshaw Blvd., between Sepulveda and Carson St., Pacific Coast Hwy. is undergoing a radical face lifting, as is the new divided Hawthorne Blvd.

Battle Touched Off Complaints by certain homeowners as to construction deficiencies touched off a heated battle between the city council and the building department last March, ending with the firing of James E. Dresser, building superintendent, and an assistant, Cecil Smith.

Dresser and Smith soon filed suits against the city, asking that they be reinstated to their positions, and Superior Court judges are now studying briefs on the case.

Three bond elections and voting for city, state, and national figures topped the political activity for the year. Voters okayed bond proposals for a new fire department headquarters, municipal swimming pool, new city hall, police headquarters, and re-creation of parks. A school bond proposal also was ratified by the taxpayers.

Councilmen Named In the city council race, Councilman Willys Blount was re-elected to his post, and Albert Ten was named to the city council for his first term.

On the national scene, a fairly full campaign was under way here, with a few flare-ups resulting in the Congressional

## An Editorial

This first edition of The HERALD for 1955 also marks the beginning of the eighth month of publication under new management. Much has been accomplished in the past seven months and much more will be accomplished in 1955.

Continued expansion of the newspaper's service to its readers and advertisers will highlight the coming months. Certain mechanical improvements are scheduled that will result in an improved product, one that this growing community will be proud of.

Acceptance of the new HERALD has been most gratifying to the publishers. It has been our constant endeavor to improve and expand and we are pleased to announce that our efforts are meeting with success.

We thank our readers and advertisers for their support and promise faithfully that The HERALD will continue to merit their confidence in the years to come.

## Runway Studied At City Airport

At least a temporary monkey wrench was thrown into plans for location of a Little League baseball field on airport property Thursday night.

Ed Dietrich, airport manager, told the Airport Commission that he is discussing plans for a needed new runway on the field with the Civil Aeronautics Administration and the State Aeronautics Board.

The runway, needed because of heavy week-end traffic, Dietrich said, would adjoin the proposed site for the ball diamond on Madison Ave., above Pacific Coast Hwy.

Joe Lamb, of 305 Via Linda Vista, representing residents of Southwest Torrance, declared that there was a great need for ball facilities for youngsters in that area. A committee headed by Jack White had investigated the situation and come up with the site under discussion. Two ball diamonds and a parking lot would be included in the parcel.

Field Now Safe The field would be far enough from existing aircraft installations for safety, he said, but Dietrich's discussion of a new runway complicated the situation.

A committee will study the new situation. In other action, permission was granted the 43rd Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol to move a quarter hut, to be used for classrooms, to property now used by the unit on the airport.

The CAP also agreed to paint its existing building. Renewal of the lease was studied. Permission was recommended for construction of two private hangars by G. E. Gyllensvan and A. J. Schmidt, with five-year leases to be granted on each.

Hangar Gets OK Also approved was a request to build a 60-by-60-foot hangar and a lease on a 100-by-100 foot plot of property. It was presented by Henry T. Babcock, of Inglewood; Marion Dordy, of Redondo Beach; Joseph Slasneck, of Santa Monica; and Robert E. Schenbeck, of Los Angeles.

Since the City Council has declared a moratorium on commercial leases on airport until negotiations are complete, no motion could be taken on leases.

The commission, however, heard plans of Kemp and Constance, first as Miss Terrance, and then Miss California, was told by newspapers throughout the state. The local girl, now a model, was the state's entry into the much publicized Miss Universe contest conducted each fall.

These are the ten top local news stories of 1954. They made the headlines of the past year, though many of others were equally as significant to those that made the news, or had a part in the story that made the story.

Jack Dabbs' application for a drive-in theater site was likewise postponed.

Local homeowners added 1350 fences and 52 patios during the same period.

## Windshield, Rear Window Smashed By Push Broom

Bart Vartanian drives to work down Hawthorne Ave. every morning.

And today was no exception. However, when he got to the Torrance Blvd. intersection, now torn up by a highway project, a road construction foreman ran out to his car brandishing a wooden push broom and smashed out his windshield.

Then, Vartanian said, the assailant "got a new grip on his weapon and proceeded to blast out the rear window. Glass flew through the car, putting a tiny cut on Vartanian's hand, and showered his wife's hair and face with the particles.

Other startled drivers stopped to view the proceedings, and offer moral support to the victim. Vartanian said he halted his auto and asked the broom toter if he would like to knock out the remaining windows, but the road man had simmered down by that time.

Detective Sgt. Percy Bennett said a warrant charging misdemeanor assault and malicious mischief was filed against Earl Meecham, identified as the road foreman. He was to be picked up for questioning early this afternoon.

Witnesses explained that Meecham apparently became heated when autos were pulling off the temporary highway onto a newly-paved section.

Vartanian lives at 640 Via del Monte, Palos Verdes Estates.

## Electric Saw Starts Blaze

Fire charred the walls and ceiling of a garage at 424 Via Linda Vista, last week end, but was extinguished before spreading to an adjacent house.

Firemen said an electrical short on a jig-saw apparently started the blaze, which spread to a Christmas tree, then up the walls. The auto was not in the garage.

Owner is H. J. Phillips, reports show.

## 4000 Houses Built in 1954

All previous records were left far behind in 1954, as Torrance reached a \$45,088,552 total, only slightly less than the combined record totals of the previous two years.

In 1953, the city recorded \$29,315,265, and in 1951, \$18,487,232. The 1954 figures were nearly four times that of 1950—\$12,805,514.

The December totals—\$5,619,552—pushed the figures over 45 million. The best month was August, with permits totaling \$7,385,798.

August Best Month August was also the best month for home construction, with 546 permits issued. Unofficial figures showed that permits were issued for 3771 homes and 71 multiple family dwellings.

In 1953, 3703 new homes and 169 multiple family dwellings were built, while during 1952, 1713 residences and 104 multiple units were constructed.

During the first 11 months of 1954, home construction totaled \$31,523,795; industrial buildings, \$3,109,000; schools, \$1,519,622; and commercial development developments, \$1,108,559. Alterations and additions to homes, fences, patios, and other work accounted for the rest of the total.

Improvements Added Local homeowners added 1350 fences and 52 patios during the same period.



(Herald Photo) Detective Sgt. Percy Bennett, right, gets the story from Bart Vartanian, who got a push broom in the windshield when he pulled out onto new pavement at Hawthorne and Torrance Blvds., Monday morning. A complaint was filed against the alleged broom wielder.



(Herald Photo) Bart Vartanian was driving down new Hawthorne Ave. Monday morning and when, a construction foreman, irked over motorists' use of the new pavement, smashed out the front and rear windows of his car. Glass showered throughout the auto.

## Light Accident Toll Recorded On City Streets

Despite wet streets and "wet" drivers, accidents on the city's highways over the holidays were exceedingly light, and drunk arrests were down over last year, police officials reported today.

A few accidents marred the slate, one a spectacular one-car crash at Plaza Del Amo near Carson St., New Year's Day. Thrown from his auto when it smashed into a tree was John W. Barber, 36, of 1109 Patronella Ave.

He was taken to Harbor General Hospital but soon released. Officers booked only a handful of over-eubherent celebrants for drunk driving and common drunk. Traffic was considered light during the usual peak highway hours.

Only other injury accident was reported at Paseo de Gracia and Pacific Coast Hwy. One driver, Grady G. Holloway, of Wilmington, was booked as a drunk driver when he drove through Torrance after alleged-ly being involved in a minor hit-run accident. In Redondo, Officer Buck Ingram arrested Holloway at Maricopa and Cerise Aves.

## Cord in Mouth Burns North Torrance Child

Henry Wayne, 13-months old, suffered painful burns when he put an electrical cord in his mouth at the family home, 17803 Glenburn Ave., according to reports. He was treated at Park Emergency Hospital, Gardena.

Permanent officers will be elected at the meeting. Clarence Hoyt, chairman, and other reports. He was treated at Park Emergency Hospital, Gardena.

Reporter: This is Mrs. Hiatt. You know, out in the Carson district, I run the children's home for orphans out by the hospital.

Reporter: Oh, yes, Mrs. Hiatt. Mrs. Hiatt: I just wanted to call you about that nice little article you ran in the paper about Jimmie's bike. You know, so close to Christmas and all, it was a shame to have his bike stolen.

Reporter: Yes, Mrs. Hiatt. I understand Jim got another bike. Mrs. Hiatt: Yes, that's what I called you about. Soon as the paper came out, I got a phone call from a man and he said he had a good bike that he would like to give to Jimmie.

Reporter: Yes, Mrs. Hiatt. We heard that he received a bike. That's Not All Mrs. Hiatt: But that's not all. This man gave us the bike and